HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE CHHATTISGARH: BILASPUR

DIVISION BENCH

CORAM : HON'BLE SHRI S.R. NAYAK, CJ
& HON'BLE SHRI D.R. DESHMUKH, J.

WRIT PETITION NO.3400 of 2004

PETITIONER

Ratan Kumar Jain,
Aged about 53 years,
S/o Late Rewaram Jain,
R/o Bada Bazar, Chirmiri
Distt Korea (C.G.)

VERSUS

RESPONDENTS

1. South Eastern Coal Field
Through Chairman cum Managing Director, South Eastern Coal Field Ltd. Seepat Road, Bilaspur.
2. Chairman cum Managing Director,
South Eastern Coal Field Ltd. Seepat Road, Bilaspur.
3. Director of Vigilance,
South Eastern Coal Field Ltd. Seepat Road, Bilaspur.
4. Chief General Manager,
SECL, Malviya Nagar,
Chirmiri, Post Office West Chirmiri,
Distt. Korea
5. Shreekant Shukla, aged about 44 years, S/o Shyam Sunder Shukla, R/o West Chirmiri Colliery, Distt. Koria (C.G.)
6. Rajiv Verma aged about 40 years
S/o P. Verma, R/o Godhari Para, Ekta Nagar, Kurariya Colliery, Chirmiri, Distt. Koria (C.G.)
7. Mayank Mishra, aged about 40 years, S/o Brijvishal Mishra, R/o Godripara, Near CSP Office, Chirmiri, Distt. Koria.

Present: Shri Parag Kotecha , learned counsel for the petitioner.

ORAL ORDER
(Passed on 5th April, 2006)

The following oral order of the Court was passed by

S.R. NAYAK, CJ .

In this writ petition instituted as a Public Interest Litigation, what is alleged is that respondents 5, 6 and 7 though they are employees of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (for short 'SECL'), they are functioning as Working Journalists for the newspapers and though this fact was brought to the notice of management of the SECL, no action was taken against them. So alleging, this petition is filed seeking a direction to the management of the SECL to take action against the respondents 5, 6 and 7. We are afraid that this petition should be treated as Public Interest Litigation. If respondents 5,6 and 7 being employees of the SECL are working as Working Journalists also for newspapers in breach of any public law, it is open for the petitioner to bring it that fact to the notice of the Press Council of India which is the Regulatory Authority for Working Journalists. The petitioner without approaching the Press Council of India has straightaway filed this writ petition. In that view of the matter, we are not inclined to entertain this writ petition. It is accordingly dismissed. No costs.

Sd/-
Chief Justice

Sd/-
Dilip Raosaheb Deshmukh
Judge

Subhy